

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Veterans Service Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 49/15)

7 Sec. 15. Survey; coordinator; best practices report; best  
8 efforts.

9 (a) All public colleges and universities shall, within 60  
10 days after the effective date of this Act, conduct a survey of  
11 the services and programs that are provided for veterans,  
12 active duty military personnel, and their families, at each of  
13 their respective campuses. This survey shall enumerate and  
14 fully describe the service or program that is available, the  
15 number of veterans or active duty personnel using the service  
16 or program, an estimated range for potential use within a  
17 5-year and 10-year period, information on the location of the  
18 service or program, and how its administrators may be  
19 contacted. The survey shall indicate the manner or manners in  
20 which a student veteran may avail himself or herself of the  
21 program's services. This survey must be made available to all  
22 veterans matriculating at the college or university in the form  
23 of an orientation-related guidebook.

1 Each public college and university shall make the survey  
2 and guidebook available on the homepage of the all campus  
3 website or veteran Internet links ~~as soon as practical after~~  
4 ~~the completion of the survey.~~ Each ~~As soon as possible after~~  
5 ~~the completion of the survey,~~ each public college and  
6 university shall provide a copy of its survey to the following:

7 (1) the Board of Higher Education;

8 (2) the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

9 (3) the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and  
10 the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of  
11 Representatives; and

12 (4) the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of  
13 State, State Treasurer, and State Comptroller.

14 (b) Each public college and university shall, at its  
15 discretion, (i) appoint, within 6 months after the effective  
16 date of this Act, an existing employee or (ii) hire a new  
17 employee to serve as a Coordinator of Veterans and Military  
18 Personnel Student Services on each campus of the college or  
19 university that has an onsite, daily, full-time student  
20 headcount above 1,000 students. Each public college and  
21 university shall make its best efforts to hire a veteran of the  
22 armed services as the Coordinator of Veterans and Military  
23 Personnel Student Services.

24 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
25 Services shall be an ombudsperson serving the specific needs of  
26 student veterans and military personnel and their families and

1 shall serve as an advocate before the administration of the  
2 college or university for the needs of student veterans. The  
3 college or university shall enable the Coordinator of Veterans  
4 and Military Personnel Student Services to communicate  
5 directly with the senior executive administration of the  
6 college or university periodically. The college or university  
7 shall retain unfettered discretion to determine the  
8 organizational management structure of its institution.

9 In addition to any responsibilities the college or  
10 university may assign, the Coordinator of Veterans and Military  
11 Personnel Student Services shall make its best efforts to  
12 create a centralized source for student veterans and military  
13 personnel to learn how to receive all benefit programs and  
14 services for which they are eligible.

15 Each college and university campus that is required to have  
16 a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
17 Services shall regularly and conspicuously advertise the  
18 office location, phone number, and Internet access to the  
19 Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
20 Services, along with a brief summary of the manner in which he  
21 or she can assist student veterans. The advertisement shall  
22 include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

23 (1) advertisements on each campus' Internet home page;

24 and

25 (2) any promotional mailings for student application.

26 The Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student

1 Services shall facilitate other campus offices with the  
2 promotion of programs and services that are available.

3 (c) Upon receipt of all of the surveys under subsection (a)  
4 of this Section, the Board of Higher Education and the  
5 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall conduct a joint review of  
6 the surveys and post, on any Internet home page they may  
7 operate, a link to each survey as posted on the Internet  
8 website for the college or university. Upon receipt of all of  
9 the surveys, the Office of the Governor, through its military  
10 affairs advisors, shall similarly conduct a review of the  
11 surveys and post the surveys on its Internet website. Following  
12 its review of the surveys, the Office of the Governor shall  
13 submit an evaluation report to each college and university  
14 offering suggestions and insight on the conduct of student  
15 veteran-related policies and programs.

16 (d) The Board of Higher Education and the Department of  
17 Veterans' Affairs may issue a best practices report to  
18 highlight those programs and services that are most beneficial  
19 to veterans and active duty military personnel. The report  
20 shall contain a fiscal needs assessment in conjunction with any  
21 program recommendations.

22 (e) Each college and university campus that is required to  
23 have a Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student  
24 Services under subsection (b) of this Section shall make its  
25 best efforts to create academic and social programs and  
26 services for veterans and active duty military personnel that

1 will provide reasonable opportunities for academic performance  
2 and success.

3       Each public college and university shall make its best  
4 efforts to determine how its online educational curricula can  
5 be expanded or altered to serve the needs of student veterans  
6 and currently-deployed military, including a determination of  
7 whether and to what extent the public colleges and universities  
8 can share existing technologies to improve the online curricula  
9 of peer institutions, provided such efforts are both  
10 practically and economically feasible.

11 (Source: P.A. 96-133, eff. 8-7-09.)